

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

August 6, 2002

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Leslee Stewart, Manchester stated:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. It is my privilege as the Vice-Chair of the Board of School Committee to introduce our new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michael Ludwell, to you. As you know, our search was a national one, extensive, quite comprehensive and inclusive whereby it included input from just about every segment of our community so that we could have help in selecting our Superintendent of Schools. We are certainly excited as a Board to have gained Dr. Ludwell's leadership and I would like to take a moment to tell you a little bit about his background and then Dr. Ludwell would like to have a few minutes too. Dr. Ludwell is a graduate of Loyola University in Los Angeles where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and minored in Education. He later earned a dual Masters in Administration and Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Montana and his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from St. Louis University. He began his educational career in Evanston, Wyoming. Later he served as Director of Staff Development and Principal at the high school in Brentwood, Missouri. He also served as a consultant and blue ribbon site visitor for the U.S. Department of Education. Mike's experience in district administration includes two positions in Missouri schools as Assistant Superintendent. These positions have been comprehensive, allowing for experience in virtually every facet of school district administration, from finance to buildings and grounds, food services, curriculum assessment, transportation and special education. Mike will be living in Manchester with his wife, Kathy, a former special education teacher and his son, Christian,

who will be a freshman at Manchester Central High School. He also has two grown children, Carolyn and Richard. I ask you to welcome Dr. Ludwell.

Dr. Michael Ludwell, 95 No. Adams Street, Manchester stated:

I just want to let all of you know that I am very, very excited about being here in Manchester. I am a little bit more excited because after six weeks and two days I am flying back to St. Louis to bring the family out here and I have been waiting a long time for that. I think they will be equally excited. The community has been very, very gracious as far as welcoming me. Cards, letters, balloon bouquets, phone calls...it has just been wonderful. I look at the issues that we have to face as a school district. Of course we have the financial issue and once we get through that every other issue is absolutely, I believe, completely doable and we are going to achieve that. My goal, and I don't think it is pie in the sky, my goal is I look at the resources that the City of Manchester has and there is, in my mind, absolutely no reason why our school district can't be not just the flagship of the state but of the region and that is what I am setting my goal and my vision to be. With that I will say thank you very much and I am just very, very thrilled to be here.

Irene Robie, 1046 Hayward Street, Manchester stated:

I would like to address the Manchester future senior center and I stress Manchester because no matter where you live, if you are within the boundaries of Manchester you live in Manchester. The future center should be in Manchester. I think that you can compare both sides, you can compare anything you want. Last week you refused to listen to a person who was going to allow us to move into the plaza and you told him that you were all through renting. That is great. Now we have been saying for months and weeks that we do not want to go into an existing building. Finish it. Put your efforts in the future Manchester senior center. Compare the air. For four years we have been talking about having a Manchester senior center. We want a freestanding building. We want 100 parking spots. We want it so it will be where there is plenty of fresh air. We want it so that we can have outdoor activities where we can play games, sit at tables, plant bushes, go for walks or even barbecue. These are the mainstays that we always wanted. Forget everything else. If it grows, and it will grow, then you won't have to go through all the trouble of tearing down more buildings or looking for another space. There will be room there for progress. Compare the prices. A brick building was built on Elm Street up above Sears Roebuck and it cost them \$3 million...\$2 million to put up a two story brick house with a full basement. How much would it cost for you to buy the land on Wellington Road? How much would it cost you to build a 15,000 square foot building with a full basement? Compare it to buying three houses and tearing them down. If you wanted to build houses on Wellington Road, why tear down houses? Do you understand? I want you all to keep in mind a freestanding building with plenty of room for parking and plenty of room for outdoor activities and plenty of room for future enlargement. Thank you very much.

Phil Greazzo, 85 Parker Street, Manchester stated:

I came to complain about the sound ordinance that Senator Gatsas...Alderman Gatsas proposes for the City of taxing anybody for holding an outside event that is over 60 decibels. This is over 60 decibels so that means that everybody who has an outdoor event will have to pay a tax so instead of trying to sugar coat it and pass it by the people as it will only effect a certain amount of people why don't you just call it what it is and call it a tax for everybody because that is what it will be. Anything that anybody has outside will be over 60 decibels and will be taxed. If you guys want a tax, just implement a tax and if you weren't wasting so much of our tax dollars you would have that ladies senior center and you would have our schools fixed and you wouldn't be wasting our money on trailways and scenic by-pass walks and all of these great things. You wouldn't have to raise more money. You wouldn't have to implement new taxes. Control your spending and start concerning yourselves with things that are important like the schools and the seniors and things like that and stop wasting taxpayer money and stop trying to implement new taxes and giving us these huge tax increases to pay for the outrageous spending that you guys keep up.

Lloyd Basinow, Ward 2, Manchester stated:

The September 3 City Charter special election is completely unnecessary in my opinion. I suggest that this Board call for a special City election for September 10 to coincide with the State Primary and at that time you use a separate paper ballot, which can be given out and then that ballot can be deposited into a separate ballot box. The cost savings could be used to pay for our ballot inspectors and a much needed pay raise. Based upon a minimum of 16 working hours and a net pay of just over \$93, our people are getting less than \$5.70 per hour. This Board gave \$40,000 as I recall to the Chamber of Commerce for a goodwill welcoming station in the park. Let the Chamber of Commerce earn their money. Let them work for the 16 hours for \$5.70 per hour. We also have an additional two hours for a training session that I haven't even figured into that 16 hours. Now there has been a lot of talk in the City going around that the ballot inspectors may refuse to work the election. They have had it up to here and you can't blame them for putting in such long hours for such low pay. The only ones we can get are senior citizens and elderly and they can't put in those kinds of hours and it isn't worth the money. If the ballot inspectors in my ward refuse to work on election day, I will not cross any informational picket line that they throw up. Please, ladies and gentlemen, let's do something about the underpaid ballot inspectors of this City.

Stephanie Lewry, Intown Manchester stated:

I am the Executive Director of Intown Manchester and I am here to speak about the noise ordinance for concert venues. First of all, I have read the ordinance and I would like to commend the Committee on Administration for a good faith effort in trying to come to some kind of resolution that will respect the citizens of Manchester who don't go to concerts and will try to keep it a fun and lively place downtown for the folks that do. I do think that they worked hard and came up with a reasonable solution. I have a couple of concerns, though.

Intown Manchester, as you know, puts on concerts and we have monitored our sound level to find out how much sound we are putting out and the speaker who spoke on this issue before is correct. 60 decibels will just about force everybody to get a noise permit. I see that that can be a real severe financial hardship for some groups who are putting on events, especially events that are free to the public. They have to do a lot of fundraising and a \$200 fee for that can be exorbitant and I am wondering if perhaps there might be a way to waive that for events where there is no admission charge. The other thing that I thought might be worthy of consideration is the opportunity for a waiver and perhaps it could go through the City Clerk first and then if it is denied it could go to the Committee. Finally I have just a question. I am curious about the motorcycle ordinance. I thought that the motorcycle ordinance is what was the impetus to get this whole noise ordinance thing started last spring and I still haven't heard anything on motorcycles. We don't stand 100 feet away from motorcycles that are really noisy. In fact, most of us are standing on the sidewalk as the motorcycles are going down the street. The decibels must be way over 100 and I hope the Committee can address that. Thank you.

Gloria Pilotte, Ward 9, Manchester stated:

I thank all of you for the opportunity to address you here this evening. This is the first time I do this. I want to speak on behalf of the workers at the elections, both the elected people and the ballot inspectors. Mr. Basinow just spoke and I have to say I agree and yet I disagree with some of what he said because I am neither elderly nor retired and I have been elected and I work at the polls as some of the people do. I know and I have heard from people in the City Clerk's Office who work very hard and officials and moderators who have to get people...it is so hard to get people. That is true but that is only one factor. I think we need to look at the work that is done on that day. Some elections are very slow. September 3 may be very slow, however, we still have to follow all of the State and City rules. We have to be there. We have to post everything. We have to count every ballot that comes in. We have to count every ballot that goes out. We are responsible for a lot of paperwork. If for some reason we forgot to sign something and we have been there 14 or 15 hours, I guarantee you that Tricia will find us or call us or send someone after us to come back that night to sign it so there is a lot of responsibility and I think that these people deserve and have earned to get more money. I know all of you realize this and you people have the power and opportunity to vote yourselves a raise so I am asking you please to use that power and opportunity to give a raise to the elected people. Remember that you need us especially at that election when you are running for Alderman or for Mayor. You need us there to do a good job, to smile and be nice to all of the wonderful voters in the City so please be kind to us. Thank you and have a good evening.

Edward Russell, Jr., Ward 3, Manchester stated:

As Moderator of Ward 3, self-appointed or appointed by the City and not elected because our moderator had to move out of town and we lost a good moderator...I have been a Selectman for a good many years. We get up at 4 AM and get to bed about 10:30 AM or 11 AM if we

are lucky. If you get to City Hall and there is a line ahead of you, you wait. The people in City Hall do a fantastic job. I am not knocking the employees of the City Clerk's Office because they do a fabulous job but the people out in the field put in a lot of long hours. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for letting us move Ward 3 from the cold Carpenter Center up to the nice warm Rines Center. The Carpenter Center last November of February, the wind was coming in so hard it was blowing papers off the desk and people were having a hard time keeping the papers on the table. I would like to see a nice raise for the people who work for me. Thank you.

Joe Kelly Levasseur, Manchester stated:

Thank you for your continual service to the City of Manchester and it is great to see that there is always a full Board when I come here, especially in the summer time. I am sorry that I have to come here and talk about this again. Your Honor, when we were working together we discussed this issue on many occasions and you also did something about it by putting together a community task force on MCTV but unfortunately I have to come here again because the Concerned Taxpayers are a non-partisan group that about a year ago had...you know they have a meeting once a month and they tape their shows and play them on TV. A lot of the concerned taxpayers can't get to all of the meetings because there are a lot of senior citizens in the City of Manchester. They sent a letter again to Dr. Grace Sullivan hoping to put these shows back on. They were going to be doing some forums with Senators from both parties and have little debates and there was one between John Kacavas and Raymond Wieczorek that was well attended – there were over 150 people and it would have been great to have that televised but again, your Honor, we got a letter saying that she doesn't want to televise that show on the weekends. It is unfortunate because the letter talks about content again and we have already gone to court on this battle of content and the courts are very opposed to any kind of content based...you know this just keeps going on and on and it doesn't stop. Unfortunately, your Honor, I think we are going to have to go to court again because again it is a weekend thing and it is once a month. There is nothing on MCTV on the weekends. There have been plenty of complaints lodged in the City of Manchester on Saturdays and Sundays hoping for more prime time things that are going on. I am hoping, your Honor, that maybe something can be done on this to avoid a lawsuit. It is a simple phone call. It is an hour and a half and it is only once a month and it is Democrats and Independents and Republicans. It is non-partisan and we want people to come in and the seniors have asked me to come to speak so I am more than happy to do that. I want to talk about two more issues. The noise ordinance. Let's talk about that. I think you guys have done a good job with the 100-decibel noise ordinance that was taken at the last concert down at Singer Park. I think Matt Normand and the City Clerk did an outstanding job so I don't see why we have to knock it down to 60 decibels, your Honor. I think what we have done already and what the City has done and what you guys have accomplished over there with the last concert was excellent. One other thing I would like to say is Steve Tellier, I think, has been a good person for the City of Manchester. When I worked with him for two years I thought he was an outstanding person and it is good to see a department head stand up and

admit a mistake and I don't think he should be chastised for it in the papers and I think you guys should look very closely at this man who has done a very good job under some very trying circumstances after the last revaluation. We all who have been through it now that it was a shoddy job. You should be letting us speak a little longer when there is only one meeting a month and I think there was a three-minute rule.

Mayor Baines replied there may be some more people who want to speak. The record will show that you had three and a half minutes.

Georgie Reagan, 306 North Street, Manchester stated:

I am here to represent the Manchester Art Commission this evening. You probably have noticed that we have a beautiful pedestal in the foyer as you come in City Hall holding the Community Spirit Award. Everybody loves receiving gifts and they are usually unexpected and very much appreciated. That is a gift to us and I am here so that everyone within the sound of my voice will know that that gift was given to us made by Master Furniture Maker Wayne Marcoux, who does not want his name on the pedestal. We did send a letter to the Aldermen asking if we could accept this gift and since it was dated July 17, I am sure they have accepted it and I have not yet received the response but this is just so that everyone besides the 14 Aldermen will hear the name of the person who gave that. I will just read you the letter that was sent to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen:

Wayne Marcoux, a Master Furniture Maker and long time resident of Manchester has offered the Art Commissioners the pedestal on which the Governor's Arts Award Community Spirit will be showcased. Mr. Marcoux has worked closely with a number of City employees over the years, many of whom he still counts as friends. These long enjoyed friendships and his pleasant working experience with the City moved him to make this generous and grand gift. This handcrafted pedestal will be placed in the main entrance of City Hall where viewing the award may be enjoyed by all Manchester citizens who earned it. We are sure you will share our pride in having it displayed so elegantly and we are honored to have the work of a Master Furniture Maker, Wayne Marcoux. His signed deed of gifts is enclosed with our request for your approval. It is his wish to give something back.

This is just to verbalize the donor of that gift and it is always nice to know...you don't appreciate a gift unless you know it is one so I am just here to tell you that it is and it is from Wayne Marcoux and we hope you all like it. Thank you.

Jeri House, 3820 Brown Avenue, Manchester stated:

I am here to speak my concerns on the rezoning issue of the two properties on Brown Avenue that are owned by the King Family Trust. When this proposal was presented to the Board a couple of months ago, there was a large number of people from my neighborhood here who were very concerned with this idea and very much did not like it. Unfortunately due to whatever there are very few people from my neighborhood here this evening because we didn't know about it. It was basically buried in whatever legal work and tabled so that hopefully no one would be here. I am here tonight to ask you to please consider this very

wisely. There are 70 families who live in this neighborhood who have been there for 20 years. When all is said and done and the proposal goes through either way, if it is rezoned as commercial property on one side and multi-family on the other side, you are going to have 75 home owners who are surrounded by an airport, industrial property from Londonderry, a hotel, a six lane highway and four or seven more multi-family units. This neighborhood already has problems with traffic, noise from the airport, and commercial development that will eventually go in the industrial park from the airport and the traffic up and down Brown Avenue now as it is. Please consider this very wisely. If you decide to rezone it in one family's favor, remember the other 75 and possibly rezone all of us the same way or do nothing at all. Thank you.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to accept the gift of the pedestal from Master Furniture Maker Wayne Marcoux.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

There being no further business to come before the special meeting, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk